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83 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

September 10, 2009

Dear President Obama:

We congratulate you on the inspiring speech you gave last night. We appreciate your tireless work with Members of Congress to draft a health care reform bill that will provide the real reform this country needs and demands.

We were pleased that you explicitly expressed your support for a public option as a central piece of achieving true reform. We look forward to meeting with you regarding your support for defining the public option in any final health care reform bill and request that the meeting take place as soon as possible.

Public opinion polls continue to show that a majority of Americans want the choice of a robust public plan and we stand in solidarity with them. We continue to support the robust public option that was reported out of the Committees on Ways and Means and Education and Labor.

Mr. President, the need for reform is urgent. Every day, 14,000 Americans lose their health care coverage. We must have health care reform that will bring down costs and significantly expand access. A health care reform bill with a strong public option will achieve these goals, providing the nation with the stable and secure health care this country so desperately needs.

Thank you again for reiterating your support for a public option during the Joint Session of Congress. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss the importance of your continued support for a robust public option in the final bill.

Sincerely,

Lynn Woolsey
Co-chair

Raúl M. Grijalva
Co-chair